



THE NATURE OF VOLUNTEER

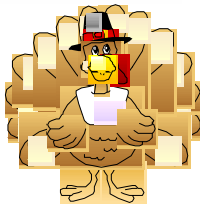
Vol 1. No. 14

EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF NATURE - VOLUNTEER

Fall 2002

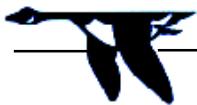


DID YOU KNOW?



Wildlife is important to people...and to the economy.

- 77 million Americans spend \$101 billion each year on hunting, fishing, bird watching and other wildlife-related recreation, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs. As a comparison, \$81 billion is spent annually on new automobiles.
- Nearly 40 million hunters and anglers spend \$44 billion on equipment and another \$28 billion on fuel, lodging, transportation and other recreation expenses.
- 24 million Americans travel more than a mile from home for wildlife-watching activities



AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGES ...

Wild Things

*where wildlife
comes naturally!*

CENTENNIAL UPDATE

The Stamp of Success

The National Wildlife Refuge System is preparing to celebrate 100 years of conservation success, and the U.S. Postal Service has recognized this achievement by designing a first class stamp commemorating the first National Wildlife Refuge on Pelican Island, Florida, which was created by President Theodore Roosevelt on March 14, 1903.

The stamp features a striking close-up photograph of a left-facing pelican. "Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge 1903-2003" appears in the bottom margin, just below the proposed design. The stamp will have a first date of issue and be available for purchase on March 14, 2003.



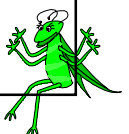
A Centennial Van Tour is planned for the northeast region to celebrate the centennial and bring attention to the NWRS as a system. The tour, which is scheduled to kick off on Friday, March 7 and end Monday, March 17, 2003, will run hand-in-hand with many of the time capsule and other events planned for this festive week, and will highlight the time capsules throughout the region, visits from local politicians, school visits, Friends Group celebrations, partner events, etc.

Regional Director Mamie Parker, and Tony Leger, Deputy Regional Director for Refuges, will be aboard the van as it migrates from refuge to refuge.

**Look for the Tour to make a stop at Forsythe Refuge
on Friday, March 7th.**

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Most of you know that there is a fee charged to visit the refuge. A day pass is \$4.00 per car. Many people take advantage of a variety of passes that are available to alleviate having to take the extra time to fill out an envelope and look for four one-dollar bills. But, some people still use the envelope system to pay the fee. Some people also fill out an envelope and put nothing inside.



So, what happens to all those envelopes after they are deposited in the metal containers, you might ask. It just so happens that I have an answer for you!

Each week the envelopes are sorted by date and emptied to be counted. There have been various staff members and volunteers who have done this through the years, but these days the duties fall on myself and a few dedicated volunteers. Sue Tebbs, Bonnie Putney, and Noreen Applegate are the dedicated volunteers. Without their help, it would be very difficult to keep up with the mounds of envelopes that come in each week. The money in the envelopes is very important because Forsythe gets to keep 80 percent of that money for a variety of public use projects.

Sue, a retired State of New Jersey employee, has been with us for a year. She volunteers at least two days a week

see **COUNTING** on page 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 7 - Countdown to the Centennial: Fall/Winter Migration Tour (9 to 1)

Friday, December 13 - Holiday Party beginning at 3:00 p.m. at the Bayview Fire Company, approx 3 miles south of the refuge on Route 9, for staff and volunteers. This is a pot-luck lunch/dinner, so please call Sandy to let us know what you'll be bringing (609-748-1535). Those who wish to participate in a polyanna, should bring a wrapped gift to put under the tree. Price limit is \$10.00. *Be sure to bring a canned food item for the food bank.*

2003

Saturday, January 25 - Countdown to the Centennial: Maintenance and Habitat Management Techniques

Saturday, February (date to be announced) - Countdown to the Centennial: What do we mean by "Burn Management?"

Friday, March 7 - Refuge Centennial Tour - coming to Forsythe Refuge.

Friday, March 14 - Centennial Celebration of the National Wildlife Refuge System and dedication of the time capsule.

On Saturday, October 26th, over 50 volunteers joined the staff of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife to celebrate the American Spirit on Make a Difference Day. Members from local scout groups, AmeriCorps and Waterwatch, Richard Stockton College, Strike a Pose, individual family groups and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlantic City joined together to plant seedlings that will eventually provide shelter for birds as they migrate north and south along the east coast of the United States. Atlantic White Cedar trees are an important indicator of the health of the wetlands. The Refuge staff hope to continue this reforestation project for the next several years.



Local Scout troops



A walk in the woods helps complete a Cub Scout badge



Boys & Girls Club of Atlantic City



Thanks for the pizza, Friends of Forsythe!



photos by Seth Putney

At dawn, it appeared as if the day would be a complete washout, but by 10:00, the clouds were disappearing as fast as visitors were arriving under the big tents to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Day.

Students from the Smithville School designed National Wildlife Refuge Week-theme flags. These special treats lined the road into the Refuge.

Volunteer Art Blatt donated his time and talents and with his "White Caps,"



welcomed the crowd with their wonderful dixieland music (photo).

John Williamson's Refuge Week Series of Birding - now a refuge day

tradition, handed out more than 100 contest kits (see article and photo)

T.R. Bear with his cousin, Smokey, were a big hit with the kids, and Congressman LoBiondo - always supportive of the Refuge - addressed the crowd and was presented with a key to the refuge.



The staff sends our thanks to all of you who helped to make the day such a huge success. We could never have done it without the help of all our friends.

The following photos say it all ...



Refuge Week Series of Birding winners announced.

Of the more than 100 SOB contest kits we passed out at the Auto Tour trailhead on Refuge Day, here are the final contest winners:

First Prize goes to the Jon Feenstra Team of Pasadena, CA for sighting 46 species with a Fall occurrence/abundance score of 105. Second Prize is the Jerry Mahlman Team of Longmont, CO for sighting 37 species with a Fall occurrence/abundance score of 77. Third Prize is the Harvey Kaufman Family of Mays Landing, NJ for sighting 32 species with a Fall occurrence/abundance score of 62.

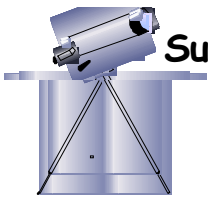
The prize for the rarest species sighted by a contestant goes to Opal Stockwell of Cherry Hill, NJ who reported two Red-throated Loons in open water north of the east pond.

To determine Fall occurrence/abundance scores, we assigned numerical valuations from 1 to 6 to the six relative abundance categories shown on page 3 of the Refuge Birds Checklist. A sighted species has the assigned numerical value equal to the relative abundance indicated for that species in the Fall column of the checklist. The sum of those numerical values for species sighted is the Fall occurrence/abundance score for a given team. Since some species are far less common than others, we developed this secondary method of scoring in case there were any ties between teams in just the number of species sighted.

- John Williamson



THE SCOPE ON ...



Sue Tebbs



On Friday, September 28, 2001, Sue retired after 35 years working for the State of New Jersey, Department of Labor.

The following Monday, she started her second career - volunteering at Forsythe Refuge.

Raised in the mountains, Sue loves animals and the outdoors. "I figured this was the easiest way to do both - and something I believed in," says Susie. "It's the best move I ever made."

Sue recalls when the Snowy Owls were on the Refuge last year ... she drove along the Drive looking in every tree and didn't see one snowy. The next day, she complained to Refuge Manager, Steve Atzert, who quickly explained that the owls are from the Tundra and there are no trees there. Sue realized then that what she thought were white, plastic trash bags in the saltmarsh were the Snowy Owls!

Sue is a member of the Friends of Forsythe, works in the Friends Nature Store, and is a member of our garden group. Two days a week, Sue helps out in the office.

Each of us who has had the pleasure of being around Susie, is so glad she chose Forsythe Refuge. She's got to be one of the nicest people we've ever met!

(For more about Sue, be sure to read the article by Cindy Heffley on page 5)

Thanks to Lee Ellis for sharing with us, his talent and thoughts ...



The Gift

The breath of a deer,
Steamy, and warm, in the crisp
winter air.
The dance of a moth,
Drawn ever closer to a flickering flame.
The silence of an owl's wings,
Gliding in the darkness of night.
The flash of a firefly,
Giving away it's presence.
The shadow, as it moves across the fields,
Losing itself in the sun.
The acorn falling silently,
Gently, landing on the forest floor.
The frothy, white waterfall,
Cascading to the heart of a deep, green gorge.
The lonely prairie,
Tinged with the blood-red sunset.
The moon, the stars, the sun.
The animals, the trees, the plants:
All these things put here for us;
To look at,
To marvel at,
To enjoy.
For this gift of nature,
We truly give thanks.

Do you have a special "gift" to share with other volunteers? Please send your articles to Sandy.



Photo by John Matteoni



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - Bring a Friend



Wildflower Garden	_____	Environmental Education	_____	Centennial Committee	_____
Visitor Center Talks	_____	Trail Maintenance	_____	Special Events	_____
Photo Club	_____	Friends of Forsythe	_____	Clean Up Litter	_____
Puppeteers	_____	Help with census of plant or animal populations	_____	Lead bus tours on Wildlife Drive	_____

If you're interested in volunteering for any of these projects, or if you have other ideas, please let us know by completing this form and sending it to us:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: (____) _____

Edwin B. Forsythe NWR
Box 72, Great Creek Road
Oceanville, NJ 08231

Tennessee - the state that gave us the Grand Ole Opry, Davy Crocket and, Refuge Officer Greg Smith



Many of the Fish and Wildlife Service staff here at Forsythe Refuge have heard me ask; WOW - how do you get this many quality Volunteers???? I have had the opportunity to meet several of the volunteer staff the past few weeks. For those of you that I have not met, let me introduce myself. I am Greg Smith, Refuge Officer from the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge in Paris, Tennessee. I have been here on a four week field training program working with Refuge Officer Brian Willard. Many of the folks that I have come into contact with on the refuge have asked me - "You are not from around here are you"? I guess my southern accent gives me away. I grew up in Tennessee, the VOLUNTEER state. I worked for the Corps of Engineers as a Park Ranger for about ten years prior to transferring to the Fish and Wildlife Service this March. For many of those years, I served as the Volunteer Coordinator and worked with numerous volunteers. For a person who knows about volunteering, I must say that the Volunteers here at Edwin B. Forsythe NWR are the "Cream of the Crop". The day I arrived, I drove up to the Friends gift shop and met Dr. Ed. He welcomed me to the refuge- and Yes, Dr. Ed could tell that "I was not from around here". I met the other Ed a couple of days later. Ed was a great help in giving me directions to Wal-Mart and to antique shops. Ed gave me pointers on law enforcement issues and shared "war stories" and "watch out for" stories. I also met Ms. Sue, who brought me left over Halloween candy. I gained four pounds during my short stay here! I met Doug, the Garden Club ladies, and several other hard working volunteers during my stay. If any of you would like to come to Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge as a volunteer, look me up! We could use a few great people like the ones here at Forsythe NWR! (Don't tell Sandy that I am trying to steal her volunteers). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff at the refuge are some of the best in the Service! They are dedicated to the jobs they do and to their fellow workers. For many of them, it is not hard to find them still hard at work - long past the time they were to go home. I have only known the staff for four weeks, but for many of them, it seems as though I have known them for years. I have gained some great friends. Thank you all for the great work that you do and for welcoming me here during my short stay.

Your friend from Tennessee,
"See Y'all Later" Greg Smith

COUNTING continued from page 2

helping out in the office. Bonnie and Noreen both work full-time, but volunteer one day a week to help with the fee counting. Bonnie is a full-time mother of two grade-school boys. Noreen is a full-time worker outside of the home.

All of them could be doing something else with their time, but they have a desire inside to help the refuge and its mission. Maybe it's also a desire to get away from the everyday duties they have at home. It's also a time to enjoy each other's company and getting to know each other. Spending four hours in a small office with hundreds of dollar bills could be quite boring, but we always get by with good conversation. Sometimes the conversation is about the interesting things people write on the envelopes or the fact that some people don't put dollar bills in the envelope. Some actually use 400 pennies or other configurations of change. Four dollars is four dollars, though, so we appreciate it just the same.

Sue, Bonnie, and Noreen might not realize how important their "job" is here. It's actually very vital. The faster the fee money is processed, the faster it can be used for various projects. I've been fortunate to have them here to help with the counting, but I've also enjoyed the time getting to know them. It makes me feel good inside to know that there are people who are willing to give up their time to come to the refuge and help out with what might seem to be a boring task.

So, I'd like to publically thank the three of them for all they do. And if anyone else reading this has a desire to help process the fee money, give me a call. We can always squeeze another chair into the room!

article by Cindy Heffley

"STAY FOCUSED" on the CENTENNIAL

The Refuge's Stay Focused Photo Club sponsored November's countdown event with a nature "Walk and



Talk." In spite of a nor'easter, approximately 40 people attended the event, which included a nature walk on the Aker's Trail led by Friends Group president, Dr. Ed Bristow. At 12:00 noon, refuge mascots T.R. Bear and the Blue Goose stopped by to have their photos taken with refuge visitors. They were joined by their mascot friends, Birdie from the Shoprite LPGA Classic and Bully from the Atlantic City Boardwalk Bullies hockey team. In exchange for a photo with our mascots (film and development compliments of refuge partner MotoPhoto of Northfield NJ), participants brought a new toy or canned good. 13 new toys (5 donated by partner, Boscov's Department Store) were delivered to the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department; and 39 food items to the Food Bank of Atlantic County. *Great job everyone!!*

A Little Bird - a story with a lesson

A little bird was flying south for the winter. It was so cold, the bird froze and fell to the ground and landed in a large field.

While he was lying there, a cow came by and dropped some dung on it. As the frozen bird lay there in the pile of cow dung, it began to realize how warm it was. The dung was actually thawing him out! He lay there all warm and happy, and soon began to sing for joy.

A passing cat heard the bird singing and came to investigate.

Following the sound, the cat discovered the bird under the pile of cow dung, and promptly dug him out and ate him!

The morals of this story:

- 1) Not everyone who drops crap on you is your enemy.
- 2) Not everyone who gets you out of crap is your friend.
- 3) And when you're in deep crap, keep your mouth shut.



Author unknown

WHO'S ON STAFF?

Maintenance Worker

TOM HOLDSWORTH

TERRY MITCHELL

Outdoor Recreation Planner

VACANT

Volunteer Coordinator

SANDY PERCHETTI

Administrative

Officer

MARTHA HAND

Office

Automation Assistant

CINDY HEFFLEY

Refuge Law Enforcement Officers

BRIAN WILLARD, CHRIS PANCILLA

Biologists

JORGE COPPEN, VINNY TURNER

Deputy Project Leader

DEBORAH LONG

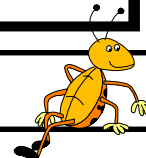
Refuge Manager

Barneget Division

KEVIN DESROBERTS

Project Leader

STEVE ATZERT



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 **Happy
Thanksgiving**